

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Foot slipped yet?

Nevertheless and notwithstanding, this is not a nation of liars.

Judge Wright's temper does not bear out the claim of judicial balance.

Anyhow, if you made it and only kept it a day or two you gained something.

Owing to the limited supply of jails Judge Wright can not punish all of them.

We have "night riders" up in this country, but papa is usually the pack animal.

The cotton batting Santa Claus showed up as numerous as usual in the casualty columns.

Senator Platt's book of memoirs will merely emphasize the splendid possibilities of the Platt forgettery.

Mr. Hearst, it seems, is now sufficiently tamed to walk right up and feed out of the presidential hand.

We venture the opinion that the truly good Dr. Lyman Abbott will not pay his assistant editor space rates.

The supreme court has decided that the interstate commerce commission can do everything but something worth while.

Perhaps that Missouri decision will give us an idea of what Mr. Rockefeller meant when he said the oil business is "hazardous."

In view of the events of the last seven years we will object to any suggestion that the nation's executive be paid on a per word basis.

Just for a joke a New England widow advertised for a husband and won. Whether the ad paid or not doubtless depends upon the point of view.

The deficit will amount to about \$150,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year, but perhaps some plan may be evolved whereby the members of the Ananias Club may be assessed \$3 apiece and the deficit thereby made good.

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The Baltimore Sun wants to know if a man should marry on \$6 a week. Certainly, if he can. But he ought to experience great difficulty in finding the woman.

Mr. Carnegie did not give the tariff committee any figures on the cost of steel making, but he did give it a vivid object lesson in the profits of steel making.

Noting that the Russian and Turkish governments were growing more liberal Judge Wright perhaps thought it necessary to preserve the old-time balance.

The crank who attempted to pull the whiskers of President Fallieres of France, should not be punished too hard. He might have tried to pull the presidential leg.

Champ Clark declares that \$5 is the average price of female headgear. But we are not going to base our estimate of Mr. Clark's statistical knowledge on that one assertion.

It was David who declared in his haste that "all men are liars," but David's hurry was a slow walk compared with our exceedingly rapid chief executive. He includes some women.

It seems much easier to locate the "responsible party" in a labor organization than to locate the same individuals in a trust—using the Sherman anti-trust law as a searchlight.

In preparing for the celebration of the Lincoln centenary it should not be forgotten that one of the greatest monuments to Lincoln's memory is the Nebraska city that bears his name.

The Omaha Bee suggests that this ought to be a great year for base ball because it has two nines of its own. O, it will be too easy. The first nine will be going strong when the other nine is a dead one.

Some day, perhaps, the people of the west, who feed the world, and the people of the south, who clothe the world, will see the folly of allowing a handful of men in the east to rule them and exploit them for their own selfish benefit.

The fact that Andrew Carnegie has contributed \$150,000 towards the purification of Pittsburg affords the suggestion that right there is an opportunity for Mr. Carnegie to die poor. It will take an awful bunch of money to purify that town.

A man named Brownell occupies a dozen or more pages of Scribner's Magazine to tell us that Edgar Allen Poe was not a literary genius, that he had no imagination and that he lacked culture. Perhaps, but will some one kindly inform us who Mr. Brownell is if any.

The Philadelphia North American "sincerely hopes it will never have to support Mr. Bryan for the presidency." No danger! Assuming superior virtue the North American will never be able to find a republican so bad that it would oppose him if Mr. Bryan were the opposition candidate. The North American deceives no one but itself by its virtuous pretensions.

PARAGRAPHIC PUNCHES

"Why shouldn't I fix the price of coal?" asks President Baer of the Reading road. Evidently still strong of faith in his divine commission at the mines.—New York World.

Mr. Sheldon's list of contributors to the republican campaign fund will do excellent service for years to come as a political register of our leading American millionaires.—New York Evening Post.

Some local men who have sustained a forty per cent cut in wages since November 3 are sitting up nights now trying to figure out where their share of the Taft prosperity comes in.—Johnstown Democrat.

Gompers has been indorsed and the American Federation of Labor is in politics. We shall hereafter see a scramble between the parties to see which can promise the most for the labor vote.—St. Louis Star.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

(Editorial in Denver News.)

Mr. D. J. Keefe, head of a Longshoreman's union, and recently a vice president of the American Federation of Labor, has been appointed commissioner of immigration by President Roosevelt. We should like to cite a few bits of recent history bearing on this appointment.

After the platforms of the two parties were adopted, the American Federation decided to support the democratic national ticket. Mr. Keefe was a member of the council which reached that decision, and he acquiesced in it. There was not a dissenting vote.

Later on in the campaign Mr. Keefe changed his attitude, and came out for Taft.

The democratic campaign managers made the charge that this change was due to corrupt motives. They charged that on a certain day Mr. Keefe visited the White House, and was promised the appointment as commissioner of immigration if he would break away from his fellows in the Federation, vote for Taft, and endeavor to divide the labor vote.

Mr. Roosevelt made his usual answer to such charges. He issued a statement branding the charge as a lie, and the men who made it as liars.

Mr. Keefe went on record as saying that during his White House visit politics was not even mentioned. He also continued to work for Taft, and to discredit Mr. Gompers, and the Federation as much as possible.

And now, after the campaign is over, Mr. Roosevelt gives Mr. Keefe the very appointment which the democrats charged he would give.

In view of these remarkable events, the News has two questions to ask:

Question No. 1—What is the moral difference between buying a man's political support with a federal office and buying it with money? There is a financial difference, because when you buy with money you pay the bills yourself, and when you buy with office the nation pays them. But what is the moral difference?

Question No. 2—Who is the liar?

REDEEMING "THE FULL DINNER PAIL" PLEDGE

A Minnesota reader of The Commoner writes to say: "On the 14th of this month the Great Northern railroad reduced the section men's wages from \$1.35 to \$1.21."

The Philadelphia North American (rep.) in its issue of November 30, referring to the J. G. Brill Car company of Philadelphia, says: "Two days after Taft's election there was decreed by the company a 'readjustment' of the scale of wages, which amounted, in effect, to a ten per cent decrease. This has fallen upon the working force in several of the largest departments."

Following is an extract from the New York Sun of November 26:

"A year ago in October, during the panic, the Great Eastern Clay company, located on South river between South Amboy and New Brunswick, of which Robert Lyle is the manager, cut its minimum wage to ninety cents for a working day of ten hours. Thereafter the highest pay for unskilled operatives was \$1.15 a day. The company promised, so the few strikers who speak English said today, that when prosperity came, after the election, the wage rate would be raised to fifteen cents an hour. The operatives heard during campaign times that if Taft was elected prosperity would come at once. After the election they waited for the prosperity. When the raise was not forthcoming the men working for the Great Eastern Clay company struck."

The New York Evening Sun of Thursday, November 26, tells about the strike involving the National Fire Proofing company and other firms at Perth Amboy, N. J. The Evening Sun said that the strikers numbered from fifteen hundred to two thousand, and added: "The strikers say that, during the financial panic, their pay was reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.35 a day, but that the employers promised to restore it to its former level if Taft was elected. Taft was elected, but the pay remained at \$1.35, they say."

RETIRED

Thomas F. Ryan is retiring from business on account of his health. Man is not as wise as the Almighty. When God created man He fixed a limit beyond which man can not go in his effort to monopolize business, but the man-made corporation has no natural limit at which it must stop and look after its health. O that the trusts were only mortal, like man!